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### Research and Writing Assignment- The Inca Empire

As the text states, "what ifs" arise when thinking of the Incas. The Incas always considered themselves separate from the civilizations around them. Because of the growth of this kingdom, whether because of the work of their ruler, the kingdom's four provinces, or their religion and ancestral traditions, the Incan became one of the most advanced and powerful. They acquired new land through the religious rule of their Sun God and created a stronger army and hierarchy by focusing on their royal family and warrior status. Their network also became more vital for facilitating troops, information, and economic integration. If the Spanish arrival had been pushed to 1632 instead of 1532, the Incas could have strengthened all their past achievements and adapted new things that, for example, the Aztecs did during their time. The text mentioned that the Incan Empire held a population of 8 million people. If the empire had been extended 100 more years, I believe they could have gotten stronger and increased their numbers to gain the power to ward off the Spanish. Because of their strong hierarchy and the amount of attention put into their warriors, they had the capability to do so. Because of the Incas' low interaction and isolation from other civilizations around them, they did not meet their full potential in network development. The Incas could have done much

better by creating more robust networks with societies around them in order to increase advancement. For example, powerful networking could have allowed them to gain tools to create more weapons, adding to their technological advancements. They could have also gained more material other than crops of maize and grain that were original to their civilization. Although they were already strong, I think the overall construct of the hierarchical society would have to be strengthened in order to secure the empire from European takeover. They would need to focus more on developing weaponry and stronger warriors that would help them be protected and win in battle. They had the ability to become one of the strongest civilizations of their time, possibly even taking over other societies. Even with that, all the Incan Empire needed was time because it seemed they did everything right socially, religiously, and economically. As the text mentioned, "...the Incas may have well become stronger and more unified the longer it lasted."

My belief in the new hierarchy system after shifting to greater importance and focus on military forces in my version of “alternate Inca history.” Still maintaining respect and power for the ruler and their religion/religious officials, but making it clear that the military is also dominant and respectable.



